

COUNCIL BRIEFS

April 7, 2017

Inaugural How-to Festival draws 3000

people: The Library's first-ever How-To Festival took place on March 25, with over 3,000 people in attendance and over 50 local hobbyists, professionals and enthusiasts demonstrating skills or teaching children and adults "how-to" do something new. Among the many popular programs were Hula Hooping, Salsa Dancing, Zentangle, how to choose/use a home fire extinguisher, how to build a catamaran, how to go camping in any weather, and landscaping for West Hartford yards. Funding for the event and hands-on volunteer support were provided by the Friends of West Hartford Libraries. Pictures of the event are found here: [2017 How-To Festival Photos](#).

Robert Howe III named Fire Fighter of the

Year: Apparatus Operator Robert Howe was nominated and selected by his peers for his on-duty actions by rescuing two people trapped on an upper floor balcony while at the scene of a building fire at 140 Kane Street on March 10, 2016. Using his skill and knowledge, he saved the building's occupants that were above the burning floor.

The Exchange Club presented Robert Howe his award at the American Legion Hall on Wednesday, April 5. Police Officer Christopher Tyler was also recognized as the Police Officer of the Year. Congratulations to both!

Distracted Driving Campaign begins: The Police Department began its 2017 "U Drive. U Text. U Pay" campaign against distracted driving on April 4, 2017. The campaign will run until April 30, 2017 and then again from Aug. 3 to Aug. 16, 2017.

This campaign is made possible with a grant from the Connecticut Department of Transportation Highway Safety Office. There will be up to eight extra officers per day patrolling in both marked and unmarked vehicles around the main thoroughfares including Park Road, New Britain Ave.,

Farmington Ave., North Main St., and Albany Ave. Officers will also be deployed around school zones, construction zones, and neighborhoods where distracted driving has been observed.

Under Connecticut's cell phone and texting law, violations involve fines ranging from \$150 for a first offense, \$300 for a second violation, and \$500 for subsequent violations.

Mayflower Street bridge update: Construction work continues on the Mayflower Street bridge over I-84. The contractor is currently working to form and place the concrete bridge deck on the east side of the bridge. Once the deck is poured, work will continue on the concrete sidewalk and parapet walls, followed by the asphalt roadway surface. The estimated completion is Summer 2017. Please check the Town's [website for periodic construction updates](#):

Conard's New SRO: Police Officer Amanda Martin has been selected as the new School Resource Officer for Conard High School beginning this Spring. She will be assigned to the school for 4 years and replaces Officer Leo Negron who has done a terrific job mentoring youth from 2013 to 2017.

Officer Martin is a six-year veteran of the department and is a Field Training Officer. She has already developed a strong working relationship with school security and is familiar with the West Hartford school environment. Officer Martin was recommended by her supervisors and was selected from a panel of West Hartford public school representatives. She holds a Bachelor's Degree from UConn and was captain of her track and field team.

Officer James Mahoney will continue in his role as SRO at Hall High School until the summer of 2019.

Ronald F. Van Winkle
Town Manager